AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.- 19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A process for producing the thrombin preparation of ~~claim 39~~ claim 49, comprising obtaining a prothrombin ~~obtained~~ from plasma or a plasma fraction, ~~wherein, following activation of~~ activating the prothrombin to thrombin, and ~~optionally further processing steps, the thrombin is purified~~ purifying the thrombin by hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

21. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the prothrombin ~~employed for activation to thrombin~~ is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses during its production.

22. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses before or after hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

23. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising performing cation exchange chromatography ~~carried out~~ before or after the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

24. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thrombin preparation is adjusted to a pH of from 5.0 to 8.0.

25.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 20 ~~claim 26~~, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine or p-aminobenzamidine.

28. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a gel with coupled hydrophobic radicals is employed as absorbent for the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

29. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the hydrophobic radicals ~~of the gel employed as absorbent~~ are phenyl radicals ~~or ligands of similar hydrophobicity~~.

30. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising ~~filtration of~~ filtering the thrombin preparation through a membrane with a suitable pore size to remove viruses.

31.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A method of using the thrombin preparation of claim 49, wherein the thrombin preparation is administered to a patient in need thereof as a hemostatic, a constituent of a hemostatic or as a constituent of tissue glue.

34.-48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) A thrombin preparation comprising thrombin and a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity as stabilizer, and further comprising a soluble calcium salt, sodium chloride as stabilizer, a buffer substance, and at least one of

a sugar,

a sugar alcohol,

an amino acid,

a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or

a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,

wherein, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, the thrombin activity of the preparation, measured by a coagulation test with a fibrinogen substrate, is at least 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

50. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

51. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

52. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

53. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

54. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

55. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine.

56. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is p-aminobenzamidine.

57. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the pH of the preparation is from 5.0 to 8.0.

58. (Currently Amended) The preparation of claim 49, comprising a ~~maximum of 2% (w/v)~~ sugar alcohol at a maximum concentration of 2% (w/v).

59. (New) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the at least one of a sugar, a sugar alcohol, an amino acid, a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid, does not increase the viscosity of the thrombin preparation.

60. (New) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the thrombin preparation comprises a hemostatic or a constituent of a hemostatic.

61. (New) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the thrombin preparation comprises a constituent of a tissue glue.